

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (portion)

June 15, 2009

Members of Finance Committee present: Ron Stake, Mel Clemens, Fred Deskins, Jr., Leslie Kelly.

Other members of Council present: Donna Shirey, Doug Joseph, Council President William L. Hills. Councilman Barth R. Cotner was absent.

Mr. Stake:.....

Item 4 - Discussion: Authorization to apply for financial assistance - Summit Road Improvement, (OPWC). This comes from our Director of Engineering, James Miller. Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller: Thank you, Chairman Stake, members of Council. In July of 2008, Council authorized Resolution 49-08 which allowed the Mayor to seek financial assistance for improvements on Summit Road. That project was not funded in this year. I am here before you asking for the same authorization. The authorization will allow me to gather support from our partners a year ago on this improvement which included Reynoldsburg City Schools, Etna Township, Licking County and private landowners. By showing City Council's willingness to participate in this grant application, it will foster cooperation with the other participating agencies that I hope to bring together yet again this year for this application. As the Mayor and I have discussed, he is not willing to submit another grant application for Summit Road if our participation amount is greater than what it was last year. I have spoken with Steve Dackin from the schools; with Etna Township; Mr. Harris has spoken with the Licking County Commissioners and I've also spoken with Glen Dugger, who is the attorney who represents the property owners on the west side of Summit Road, who have all indicated an interest in participating in this application once again, and I would be happy to answer any questions that anybody may have on the subject.

Mr. Stake: Are there any questions from members of the Finance Committee for Mr. Miller?
Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes, when do you have to have the application in, Jim?

Mr. Miller: It's due on September 8.

Mr. Clemens: That means that you can't, I don't have a problem on this, you know, applying for it. Of course, my problem is that we don't have anything in writing from the other people that you've talked to. That's my problem. Knowing we were going to do this, and I knew this, you knew this, we all knew it. We should have, if you'd have did this two months ago, we could have probably had this in writing on who's going to participate. You know, this, going to the last minute catches us on vacation and it just doesn't work out right some times. I'm not going to oppose it, but if they don't participate, like they did last time, I certainly would not vote for it.

Mr. Miller: We're on the same page.

Mr. Clemens: I understand, I mean....

Mr. Miller: And their commitments of interest will be in writing by September 8th.

Mr. Clemens: That's what I mean. That's, you know, I'd like to see that before, you know, file it that they are in writing.

Mr. Miller: It has to be so that they're scored properly in the grant application.

Mr. Clemens: That's fine.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Councilman Deskins.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you, Councilman Stake. I'd, this, refresh me, if you will. What are the improvements?

Mr. Miller: Well, in the City of Reynoldsburg, Summit Road was going to be three lanes with curb and gutter, storm sewer and street lighting and it was also going to be realigned with Summit Road that goes north of Firstgate towards Broad Street and the improvement was also going to extend through Etna Township as two lanes with curb and gutter and storm sewer all the way down, south to Main Street and that is the reason why we have so many different participants in this grant application is that everybody is paying their minimum or greater shares in the application to facilitate the improvement.

Mr. Deskins: This has nothing to do with the infrastructure of the utilities for the school, the new school?

Mr. Miller: No.

Mr. Deskins: Okay.

Mr. Miller: In fact, the water and sewer lines needed to serve the schools are not part of this application; neither is a future extension of Mueller Drive to Summit Road part of this application.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Okay. Say we get the improvement and they'll give us a certain time to start it, you know, once we get the money. Like always, we have to start it by a certain time and finish it by a certain time. Will the infrastructure improvements be worked out by that time that we do the road so that we don't have to tear it up again and so forth?

Mr. Miller: Currently, that is the plan. I understand from the school's Construction Manager that they want to begin construction before the end of this year for a 2011 opening of their schools. So I certainly hope that it's worked out by then, because they won't be able to start construction until it is worked out.

Mr. Stake: Any other questions or comments from members of the Finance Committee, members of Council? President Hills.

President Hills: Mayor, I'd like to thank you for making the statement that, or for having Jim make the statement that our exposure is not going to exceed what it was last year, on when and if this project is submitted and I appreciate your candor in cautiously stating what other people's positions are, because I, one of the things you and I talked about is one of the key things was know - were all parties going to participate in an equal to, or greater than, amount than they did before, and we don't know that. I guess the semantics thing, we can start 60 days ago, or 90 days ago, the issue is, why do the application if you don't have the commitment; but I think you're now trying to, let's say do them both at the same time, but knowing, and the commitment from the Mayor if they aren't at that level, then that application's not going to get filed anyway, correct?

Mr. Miller: Absolutely.

Mr. Hills: What that, I appreciate that part of it, because we don't need to multiply problems that we have so, but I agree with Councilman Clemens, and I don't get to vote, I only get to vote if there's a tie, but I can assure you if it isn't a better deal than it was before, it's not a good deal this year either.

Mr. Miller: We recognize that, we recognize that and you know, the commitments are all based on percentages, so if anybody falls short, somebody has to pick that up which is contrary to what I just told you, which we're not willing to let happen.

Mr. Hills: Appreciate that. Be sure that the players coming to the table know that too.

Mr. Miller: Absolutely.

Mr. Stake: What a, when would you have a documented commitment from the other parties?

Mr. Miller: Well, with the exception of the private landowners on the west side of the road, they all have a legislative process that they themselves have to go through as well. So most certainly I have to have them before the beginning of September. I would say it will take me 30 - 45 days at a

minimum to obtain those written commitments, as I did last year.

Mr. Stake: I, the only thing that bothers me about this as I heard tonight that at least one of the parties is not committed, and so I guess before I'd send this on for its first reading, I need to find out from that other party where they stand on this. Does anybody on this Committee have a problem with that? I mean, I'm sure we can get this passed by the end of July should, you know, the commitments be there. But that's the route I'd like to go at this point. Any problems with members on Council? Councilman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: If we wait until the end of July to pass it, will it hold you up?

Mr. Miller: It does add pressure. Yes, because with 30 - 45 days for the other legislative processes to also occur, you know, if I start at the end of July, that only gives me 30 days to get to the end of August and my application due date is on September 8th.

Mr. Stake: If I could just interrupt you for a minute. I don't see any request for emergency on this. I assumed it was going to go three readings and we can reduce the readings down. I'm just asking to hold this for two weeks so that I can get a better handle on the other parties and whether they're committed or not. You know, I know that when we do these things and we get, we get the funding and it's maybe not what we wanted, and I appreciate your statement in here that says, 'this legislation is not a commitment to move forward on this project' but every, I've heard that several times before from your predecessors and others, but then I hear that, well you know what, if we don't take the money, we're never going to get it again. So I just want to be a little bit cautious here to make sure that, and if we're saying that if, you know, if the other parties aren't in, at the commitment level of last year, then we're not going to go forward with it, I don't see why two weeks would be a problem. We can go ahead and put this on the next Committee and deal with it at that time. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes, I understand what you mean. I don't, this doesn't set back the other applicants from taking action. You've already discussed it with them as you said, you've got their commitments.

Mr. Miller: Verbally yes.

Mr. Clemens: They know we're going to do it. So why aren't they starting? I mean, Etna Township has a meeting tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Miller: Well, you know, again, in this, having gone through this last year, and based on my conversations that I've had with the parties this year, the first question I'm always asked is, you know, is Reynoldsburg City Council on board with this project?

Mr. Stake: I think you heard that we, you know, correct me Council members if I'm wrong, but I

think Council is on board, given the other parties are on board as well. Is that a true statement?

Mr. Clemens: That's a fact.

Mr. Stake: So you can tell them that. In the meantime, if you need to do work on the application, go right ahead; if you find out though that somebody's not on board, you might not want to waste your time.

Mr. Miller: I wouldn't, that's the first step that I would take to complete this.

Mr. Clemens: The first step is 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, Etna Township, you have a meeting.

Mr. Miller: Yeh, well, I know that I'm not on their agenda for tomorrow.

Mr. Clemens: You hold your hand up and ask to be on it, just like they do here.

Mr. Stake: Are there any other questions or comments from members of Council, or members of Finance Committee? Then I'm going to make a motion that we hold this item for two weeks. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. Any discussion. All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") **Opposed. (No response).**

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(portion) Finance Committee Minutes 7-6-09:

Item 10 - Discussion: Authorization to apply for financial assistance - Summit Road Improvement (OPWC)- - -on 6-15-09 item held. Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller: Thank you again, Chairman Stake, members of Council. This legislation is to authorize the Mayor to seek financial assistance for the Summit Road improvements. This application as we discussed on June 15th, this is a re-cycle from last year. It will be the same application, same improvements. I have re-looked at the cost estimate and the cost estimate has changed ever so slightly in the downward direction only by \$2,800 I believe on a \$6.1M project. The Grant application will be asking OPWC for the Grant assistance and 0% loan assistance just as we did last year. There were a number of other Governmental agencies involved in the application that have all been spoken with. They all have expressed a great deal of interest in seeing the application go forward again this year as well as the landowners on the west side of Summit Road in the City of Reynoldsburg. They, too, are interested in seeing this project move forward and are interested in participating and seeing it happen. As I said during the June 15th meeting, we have no plans to submit an application to OPWC if the City of Reynoldsburg's share to see this project move forward is greater than what it was proposed to be last year which was \$825,700 and some change, if I'm not mistaken. So if the Reynoldsburg portion is any larger than what it was last year, as stated in my October 8th memo that I gave you back in June, we do not have plans on submitting this application.

Mr. Stake: Thank you and I did express some concerns at the previous Committee meeting and that's why I held it, although I have checked with some folks and I'm perfectly satisfied as to what you said that there are, you know, they are wanting to move forward on this, so I do not have any concerns at this moment. Are there any questions or comments from members of Finance Committee, members of Council? This would just be in the form of a motion, correct?

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Stake: So it would be one reading. If there are no questions or comments then, I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council, this motion on to Council with recommendation for adoption. Second by.....

Mrs. Frazier: Excuse me. I think you've got a resolution attached to this. Isn't that the way we've done that before?

Mr. Miller: Yes, you're correct.

Mrs. Frazier: It's a resolution.

Mr. Miller: That's right.

Mr. Stake: It's a resolution so we need ...

Mr. Miller: It's a resolution, not a motion. I'm sorry.

Mr. Stake: Okay, then I will make a motion that we send this resolution on to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Second by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion. All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes.

Mr. Miller: Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Thank you.

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Finance Committee

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

July 6, 2009

(Transcribed/S. Cochran, Ass't. Clerk of Council)

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(portion) Regular Council Minutes 7-13-09:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR THE FUNDING OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- - Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mr. Joseph seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mrs. Shirey "Yea"; Mr. Stake "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 44-09 adopted.